

In the claims:

Please amend claims 3 and 4 as follows:

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) A method for preparing a wire bonding capillary comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a wire bonding capillary for pressing a metal wire against an electrode pad comprising a capillary tip having a pressing face; and
- (b) coating all of said pressing face of said capillary tip with a layer of polymeric material, said polymeric material including at least one thermoplastic polymer.

Claim 4 (previously amended) The method as in claim 3 wherein said thermoplastic polymer is poly-p-xylylene.